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while another 20 per cent are found also in the Pacific mountains, leaving 60 per cent peculiar to the Rockies. Of these, fully one-half are restricted to the southern Rockies, and less than one-fourth to the northern Rockies. Of the locally endemic species, which are all herbaceous, 6 are confined to the Canadian Rockies, 3 to Montana, 3 to Idaho, 14 to Wyoming, 13 to Utah, and 16 to Colorado. *Viola biflora* is noted as having the most remarkable distribution, having been found only in a few places in Colorado, in Alaska, and in Europe.—GEO. D. FULLER.

A polycotyledonous bean.—HARRIS²⁶ has secured a race of the common garden bean which shows steadily more than 2 cotyledons as tested by 3 offspring generations, comprising thousands of individuals. Since the race appears in a "pure line" and has remained constant in several differential features, he concludes that its origin and behavior are characteristic of mutation as defined by DEVRIES. The cotyledons are highly variable in number, ranging from 2 to 7, but have a modal frequency of 4. For this reason the embryo is described as tetracotyledonous. This persistent tendency of a dicotyledonous type to develop polycotyledony is an interesting confirmation of the claim that the number of cotyledons developed depends upon conditions rather than upon inevitable inheritance.—J. M. C.

Illinois Academy.—The volume of *Transactions* of the Illinois Academy of Science for 1915 has just appeared. It contains the following botanical papers: Comparison of a Rocky Mountain grassland with the prairie of Illinois, by GEORGE D. FULLER; Studies in *Phyllosticta* and *Cercospera*, by ESTHER YOUNG; Method of prophesying the life duration of seed, by JAMES E. GROVES; Peculiar examples of plant distribution, by H. S. PEPOON; The grass flora of Illinois, by EDNA MOSHER; A Florida smut, *Ustilago sieglingiae*, in Illinois, by MARGARET MEHLHOP. A symposium on colloids includes the following papers: Outline of the chemistry of colloids, by D. A. MACINNES; Significance of colloidal chemistry in physiology, by WILLIAM CROCKER.—J. M. C.

Bog theories.—The vegetation of peat bogs exhibits such remarkable peculiarities of habit and structure that it has called forth a number of varied and somewhat conflicting explanatory theories. These theories have been summarized carefully by RIGG,²⁷ especially in so far as the xerophily of the plants is concerned, in a manner that is likely to prove very useful. A good bibliography adds to the value of the paper.—GEO. D. FULLER.

²⁶ HARRIS, J. ARTHUR, A tetracotyledonous race of *Phaseolus vulgaris*. Mem. N.Y. Bot. Gard. 6:229-244. 1916.

²⁷ RIGG, G. B., A summary of bog theories. Plant World 19:310-325. 1916.